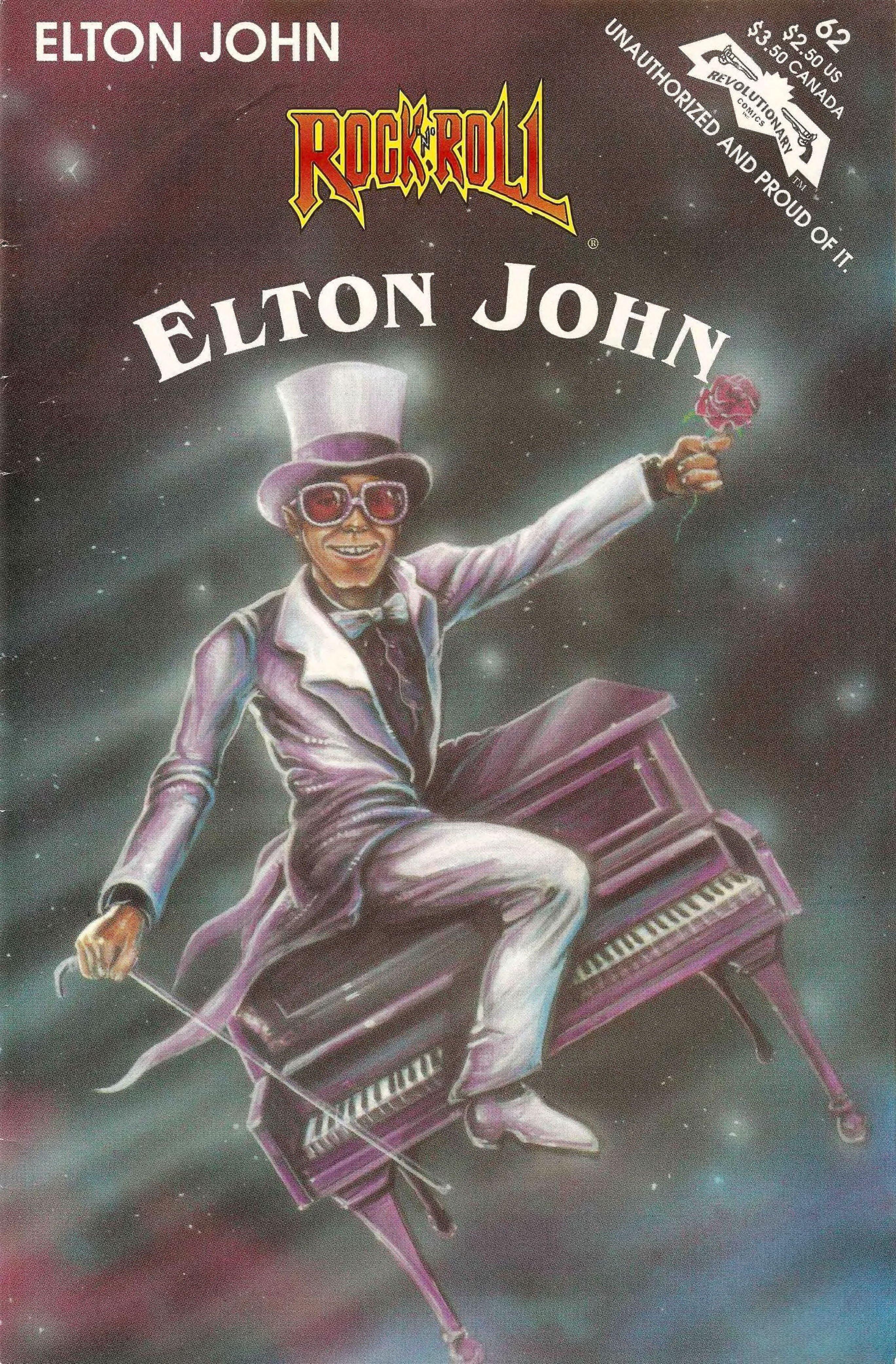
ELTON JOHN
ROCK 'N' ROLL
ELTON JOHN
62
$2.50 US
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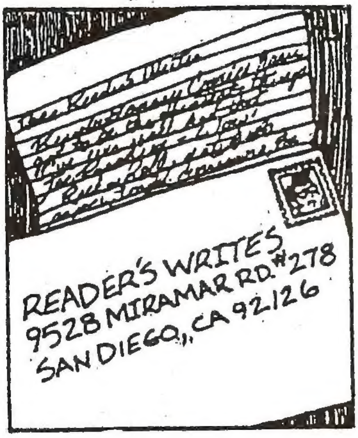
REVOLUTIONARY COMICS
UNAUTHORIZED AND PROUD OF IT.



Hey, What Happened?!

by Jay Allen Sanford

I KNOW THAT MOST OF YOU out there in reader-land faithfully collect each and every one of Revolutionary's rock comix. As such, I'm sure you're all looking at this #62 issue and saying to yourselves, "What the...?! I never saw **#61**!" Okay, okay, bear with me a moment.

RNR #61 is on the supergroup YES, a band known for their full blown spectacle and artistic adventures. We've endeavored to capture this in the comic, with incredibly expansive layouts, wonderous stories and meticulous art. Then, shit happened. A short list—lost mail, floods in the midwest, illness, divorce, mechanical problems, printing errors, and so on, with more problems than we can list. The end result is this—Rock 'N' Roll Comics shipping out of order. I know, it's a pain in the ass, but we hate it even worse than you guys! RNR #63, on Janis Joplin, will be out next and then, finally, we'll put out the Yes comic, probably in September. I know, we suck, but it's the best we can do under the circumstances. It'll be worth the wait, I promise. If you don't agree when you see the Yes story, I'll sniff Tipper Gore's panties as penance. That's how sure I am that you'll love it!

Now then, on to the mailbag (which is overflowing, as usual):

Dear Jay and Company,

I just finished Rock 'N' Roll #60, on Genesis, and am very moved! The art is beautiful, capturing the bandmenbers' countenances so precisely that I'm tempted to believe that they're actually photos converted into drawings. Cheers to Greg Fox! The writing was also excellent. Having delved into Genesis' past, I'm able to appreciate Sanford's accuracy and streamlined style. It was truly smooth and pleasurable reading. Believe it or not, I'm also going to compliment Susan Dorne's lettering—her meticulous flowing style is in perfect harmony with the aforementioned aspects.

What impressed me the most, however, was the content. On first sight, I imagined the comic would cater to the newer Genesis fans, skimming over the first ten years as if they were so much mire. However, you proved me wrong, even surpassing my highest hopes, and I thank you!

John Evicci
Tenth Street
Dracut, MA 01826-5661

Dear John,

Yer welcome! So far, we've had quite a few votes for a followup issue on Genesis in the 80's. How about the rest of you out there? Lemme know what you want, and I'll make sure you get it—except you guys who keep writing to ask for Lita Ford's address! Oh yes, and speaking of Lita Ford...

Jay Allen

Dear Revolutionary,

What can I say? As a huge Runaways fan I *had* to have this comic (HR #16). I thought this particular issue of your comic was both good & bad. Good because it was about my 2 favorite performers & my favorite old band. Bad because it was drawn like a beer commerical. Take another look at them. Their bodies were not quite as shapely and well endowed as drawn. Some of the history was incorrect also. The individual stories on Joan & Lita were great though. I wish maybe you could've gone more into their personal lives & said if they still talked. (Although, I hear they don't & I'm not sure why.) Also, you'll get no argument from me on how sleazy Kim Fowley was, but don't make it worse by writing a sexist novelty comic about the group. They were hounded by the music press because of their age & gender, but it wasn't that bad. I also don't think Runaways fans will appreciate the stripping scene, the bad comments about their talents, or the *way* exaggerated weight problem of Lita Ford. (She was over by maybe 5 or 6 lbs.) Anyway, I really hope to see another comic devoted to Lita & Joan soon. Maybe the next one can fill in some gaps.

PS: If the Runaways came out in 1988 instead of 1975 they would've kicked ass. They were truly ahead of their time & it's too bad they didn't have the proper backing. If they had come out in a time when women were accepted almost as seriously as men they would still be around today.

Lauren Varga
310 Kilmer Ct.
Piscataway, NJ 08834

(continued on page 31)

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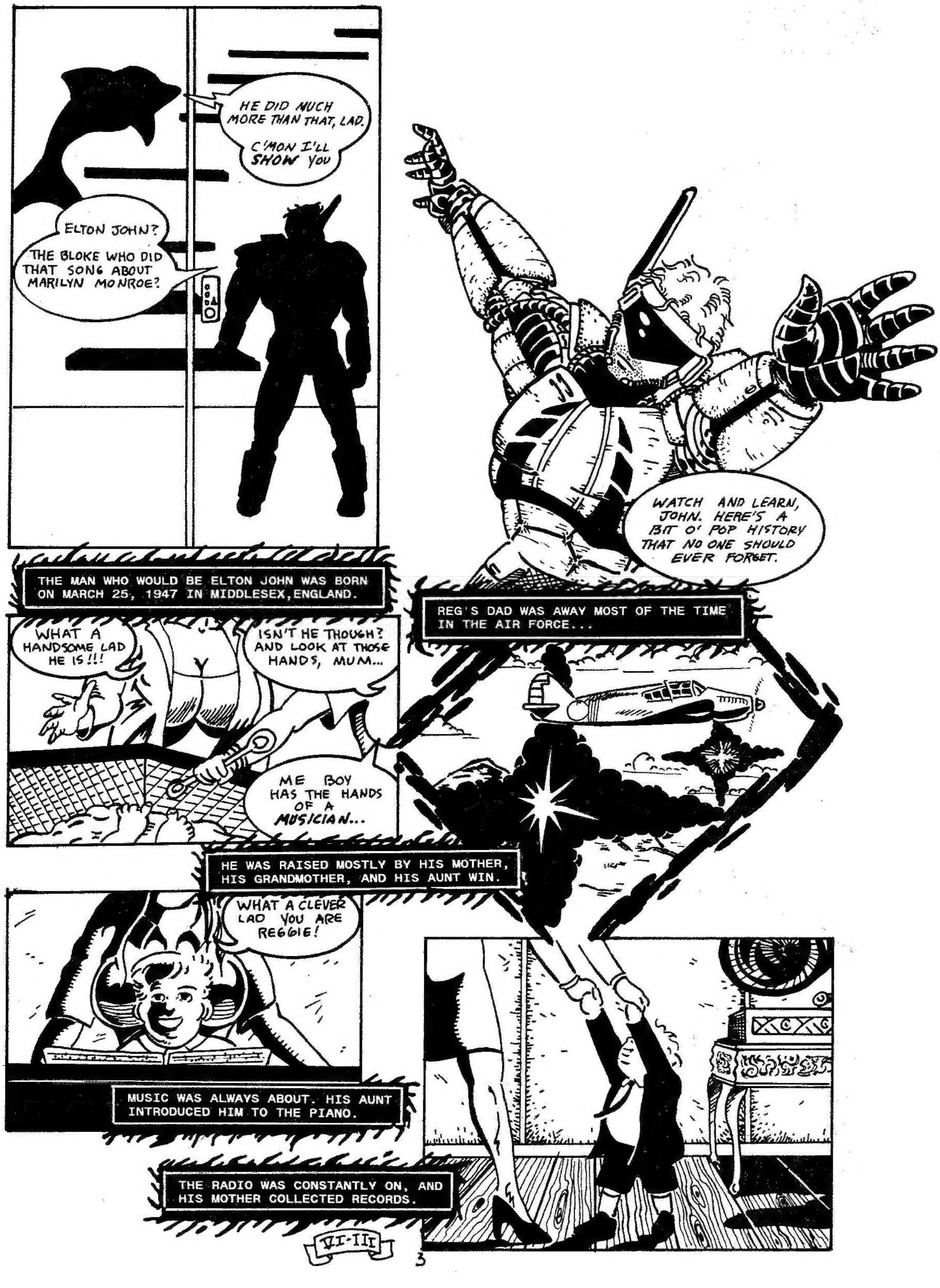
THE REVOLUTIONARIES
Founder: Todd S. Loren Publisher: Herb Shapiro
Editor: Jay Allen Sanford Production Manager: MSG
Finances: Marilynn Shapiro Shipping: Tom Potts

GOD HELL STUDIOS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO RESPECTFULLY DEDICATE THIS COMIC TO: TODD (BIG DADDY) LOREN + BILL MANTLO

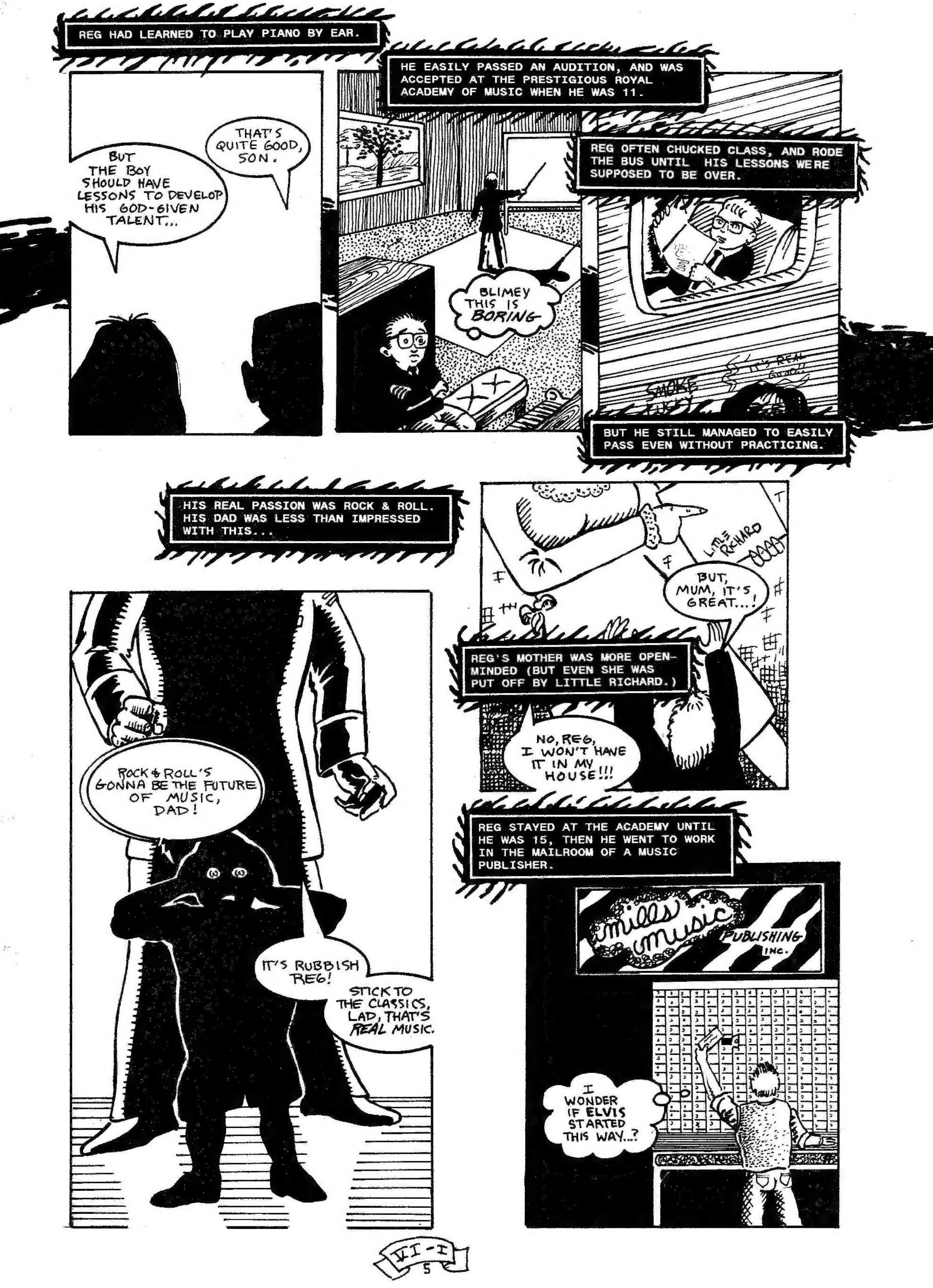
VI-V

HE WAS BORN WITH THE IMPOSING MONIKER OF REGINALD KENNETH DWIGHT...
...AND THE WORLD CAME TO KNOW HIM AS
ELTON JOHN
SCRIPT
MICHAEL K. WILLIS!
TODD LOREN PRESENTS
CONTROLLED CHAOS
MAXWELL
AND
LETTERS
HACKELFORD ROBERT SAVAGE
THE EDIT GOD
JAY ALLEN SANFORD!!!
...BUT WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE HE WAS REALLY...
JUST A GUY NAMED REG
BUT WHAT A GUY REG...ELTON...WOULD TURN OUT TO BE!



HE DID MUCH MORE THAN THAT, LAD.
C'MON I'LL SHOW YOU
ELTON JOHN?
THE BLOKE WHO DID THAT SONG ABOUT MARILYN MONROE?
WATCH AND LEARN, JOHN. HERE'S A BIT O' POP HISTORY THAT NO ONE SHOULD EVER FORGET.
THE MAN WHO WOULD BE ELTON JOHN WAS BORN ON MARCH 25, 1947 IN MIDDLESEX, ENGLAND.
WHAT A HANDSOME LAD HE IS!!!
ISN'T HE THOUGH? AND LOOK AT THOSE HANDS, MUM...
ME BOY HAS THE HANDS OF A MUSICIAN...
REG'S DAD WAS AWAY MOST OF THE TIME IN THE AIR FORCE...
HE WAS RAISED MOSTLY BY HIS MOTHER, HIS GRANDMOTHER, AND HIS AUNT WIN.
WHAT A CLEVER LAD YOU ARE REGGIE!
MUSIC WAS ALWAYS ABOUT. HIS AUNT INTRODUCED HIM TO THE PIANO.
THE RADIO WAS CONSTANTLY ON, AND HIS MOTHER COLLECTED RECORDS.
VI-III

REG'S DAD, A TRUMPET PLAYER, ALSO FED HIS BURGEONING AWARENESS OF MUSIC...
HERE YOU GO REG...
SINATRA'S "SONGS FOR SWINGING LOVERS"
YOU'LL LIKE THIS ONE.
UM, GEE THANKS DAD... THIS IS MUCH BETTER THAN THAT DUMB OL' BICYCLE I WANTED...
WOW!!!
DID I CUT YE LAP?
SNIP
ONE FATEFUL DAY, REG DISCOVERED ROCK N ROLL
SMOKE
DATS GOOD SMOKE
OH YES
TAR DADDY
ELVIS!
HM? OH NO, SIR... I SAID "WOW" NOT "OW"
I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL MUM ABOUT THIS!
I'VE JUST HEARD OF THE MOST REMARKABLE FELLOW!
REG'S DISCOVERY OF ROCK & ROLL WOULD FOREVER CHANGE HIS LIFE.
ELVIS


REG HAD LEARNED TO PLAY PIANO BY EAR.
THAT'S QUITE GOOD, SON.
BUT THE BOY SHOULD HAVE LESSONS TO DEVELOP HIS GOD-GIVEN TALENT...
HE EASILY PASSED AN AUDITION, AND WAS ACCEPTED AT THE PRESTIGIOUS ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC WHEN HE WAS 11.
BLIMEY THIS IS BORING
REG OFTEN CHUCKED CLASS, AND RODE THE BUS UNTIL HIS LESSONS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE OVER.
BUT HE STILL MANAGED TO EASILY PASS EVEN WITHOUT PRACTICING.
HIS REAL PASSION WAS ROCK & ROLL. HIS DAD WAS LESS THAN IMPRESSED WITH THIS...
ROCK & ROLL'S GONNA BE THE FUTURE OF MUSIC, DAD!
IT'S RUBBISH REG!
STICK TO THE CLASSICS, LAD, THAT'S REAL MUSIC.
LITTLE RICHARD
BUT, MUM, IT'S GREAT...!
REG'S MOTHER WAS MORE OPEN-MINDED (BUT EVEN SHE WAS PUT OFF BY LITTLE RICHARD.)
NO, REG, I WON'T HAVE IT IN MY HOUSE!!!
REG STAYED AT THE ACADEMY UNTIL HE WAS 15, THEN HE WENT TO WORK IN THE MAILROOM OF A MUSIC PUBLISHER.
mills music PUBLISHING INC.
I WONDER IF ELVIS STARTED THIS WAY...?

WHEN HE WAS 16, REG JOINED BLUESOLOGY, A BAND MADE UP OF OTHER AMBITIOUS YOUNG PLAYERS.
NOBODY IN THESE BLOODY CLUBS LISTENS TO THE MUSIC! I HATE THIS!!
!?!
BLUESOLOGY
DESPITE REG'S MISGIVINGS, BLUESOLOGY BECAME SOMETHING OF A SUCCESS...ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HOOKED UP WITH LEGENDARY BRITISH BLUESMAN, LONG JOHN BALDRY.
WELL, NOW THAT WE'VE MADE IT, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA CALL YOURSELF? SOMETHING FLASHY?
YEAH... "FLASHY" YEAH!
...A YOUNG PERSONS NAME SHOULD'NT BE REGINALD... IT'S NOT A ROCK & ROLL NAME AT ALL.
AFTER MULLING IT OVER, REG TOOK THE NAME "ELTON" FROM BLUESOLOGY'S SAX PLAYER AND THE NAME "JOHN" FROM BALDRY.
ELTON JOHN... NOW THERES A ROCK & ROLL NAME! IT'S SIMPLE, AND DIFFERENT FROM ANYBODY ELSE.
I'M STILL THE SAME PERSON AS REG DWIGHT...
BUT "ELTON JOHN" GIVES ME A NEW RUSH OF CONFIDENCE!
LATER, REG WILL HAVE HIS NAME LEGALLY CHANGED TO "ELTON HERCULES JOHN" ("HERCULES" BEING ONE OF HIS CHILDHOOD KNICKNAMES).

HAVING LEFT BLUESOLOGY, ELTON AUDITIONED FOR A FLEDGLING RECORD COMPANY.
YOU HAVE A NICE TOUCH ON THE PIANO LAD.. A PASSABLE VOICE AS WELL... BUT DON'T YOU HAVE ANY ORIGINAL MATERIAL? THATS WHAT WE REALLY NEED!
...WELL...NO...NOT REALLY
GIVE US A CALL WHEN YOU DO, OKAY?
THERE'S A GOOD LAD.
DAMN! NONE OF THESE LYRICS ARE GONNA MAKE IT!
BERNIE TAUPIN WAS IN A SIMILAR PREDICAMENT AS ELTON, HAVING SUBMITTED SOME OF HIS WORK TO LIBERTY.
WE FIND YOUR MATERIAL INTERESTING, LAD, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE COULD DO WITH JUST LYRICS
WELL I KNOW SONGWRITERS USUALLY WRITE THE WORDS AFTER THE MELODIES BUT...
HOLD ON THERE, BERNIE ME LAD, I KNOW SOMEBODY I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TEAM YOU UP WITH...
ELTON AND BERNIE MET FOR COFFEE AND A FATEFUL PARTNERSHIP WAS FORMED.
I CAN WRITE LYRICS ALL DAY LONG...
THEN I'LL PUT MUSIC TO 'EM!
YOU KNOW THAT IT USUALLY WORKS THE OTHER WAY AROUND DON'T YOU?
WHO CARES? LET'S MAKE SOME MUSIC!
V+II
7

DESPITE HOMOSEXUAL FEELINGS, ELTON FOUND HIMSELF INVOLVED WITH A WOMAN NAMED LINDA WOODROW.
YES, I THINK SO....
WE SHOULD GET MARRIED!
I LOVE HER... BUT SHE'S MAKING ME MISERABLE.
SHE SEEMS TO HATE EVERYTHING I LOVE.
JUST LIKE MY FATHER, SHE ESPECIALLY SEEMS TO HATE MY MUSIC..
THIS IS CRAZY ELTON...
YOU'VE GOT TO BREAK IT OFF
ELVIS
WITH MISGIVINGS, ELTON MOVED OUT OF HIS MOTHER'S HOUSE, AND WOUND UP SHARING A FLAT WITH BERNIE, AND LINDA!
THIS WILL BE A RIGHT PROPER LITTLE HOME.
NOW IF ONLY YOU TWO WOULD PUT THIS SONGWRITING NONSENSE OUT OF YOUR HEADS AND GET REAL JOBS...
WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FRIENDS, ELTON FOUND THE STRENGTH TO CALL OFF THE NUPTIALS. YEARS LATER, THE WHOLE EPISODE WOULD BE CHRONICLED IN THE SONG "SOMEONE SAVED MY LIFE TONIGHT".
I MEAN IT- I'M GONNA KILL ME SELF! I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH THIS WEDDING!
YOU BLOODY FOOL! IT'S NOT WORTH THIS!! BREAK IT OFF!!!

THAT CRISIS BEHIND HIM, ELTON RECORDED A NUMBER OF UNSUCCESSFUL RECORDS BEFORE FINALLY SCORING A HIT WITH "LADY SAMANTHA".
YEAH. THIS COULD BE THE ONE...
AFTER RECORDING ONE FLOP ALBUM... "EMPTY SKY"... FOR DJM, A COMPANY OWNED BY HIS MANAGER (AND SURROGATE FATHER) DICK JAMES, ELTON FOLLOWED UP WITH A REMARKABLY ASSURED EPONYMOUS SECOND EFFORT.
WE'RE ON OUR WAY, DICK... THIS IS THE ONE.
I BELIEVE SO, LAD... BUT IN ORDER TO GIVE IT A PROPER PUSH, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO HIT THE ROAD.
GO ON TOUR? I'M NOT TOO KEEN ABOUT THAT, DICK...
IT MUST BE DONE, ELTON. WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU A BAND. I KNOW A COUPLE OF BLOKES WHO WERE WITH SPENCER DAVIS WHO MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.
ELTON FOUND HIMSELF SUDDENLY LEADER OF A SMALL COMBO THAT INCLUDED TWO LATTER-DAY MEMBERS OF THE SPENCER DAVIS GROUP... BASSIST DEE MURRAY AND DRUMMER NIGEL OLSSON.
DESPITE SOME ONSTAGE JITTERS, ELTON SOON BECAME SOMETHING OF A SHOWMAN AND HIS BAND'S REPUTATION BEGAN TO GROW.
FORMER YARDBIRD GUITAR WIZARD, JEFF BECK, INQUIRED ABOUT JOINING THE GROUP.
WELL, SINCE I'LL BE THE BIGGEST DRAW, I SHOULD GET THE BIGGEST SHARE OF THE MONEY WE MAKE.
RIGHT! WE'LL GET BACK TO YOU, MATE...
WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER!
UNI RECORDS, A DIVISION OF MCA, PICKED UP THE "ELTON JOHN" ALBUM FOR U.S. DISTRIBUTION AND DICK JAMES DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE BAND TO GO TO THE STATES.
MAKE IT OR BREAK IT, TIME LADS!
IT'S OFF TO AMERICA WITH THE LOT OF YOU!
ORLANDO

AMERICA!
WE'RE GOING TO AMERICA
ELTON AND THE BAND MADE THE TRIP TO AMERICA TO MAKE THEIR STATESIDE DEBUT AT THE LEGENDARY TROUBADOUR CLUB IN HOLLYWOOD.
MY GOD, LOOK AT ALL THE BIG SHOTS OUT THERE
Y-YEAH, I KNOW... IT'S LIKE DICK SAID.
MAKE IT, OR BREAK IT!
DESPITE HIS INITIAL NERVOUSNESS, ELTON'S TROUBADOUR SHOW WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS.
... TAKE ME TO THE PILOT... LEAD ME TO THE FLAME...
LA TIMES
ELTON JOHN HAS ARRIVED
I THINK WE'VE MADE IT, LADS!

WELL THAT'S IT THEN, IS'NT IT? I'M REALLY "ELTON JOHN" NOW!
AFTER THIS NOTHING'S GONNA HOLD ME BACK.
SAN ALLEN SANFORD ON LETTERMAN! DISCUSSES SEXCHANGE.
ERIC MISSING!!! FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED
SHOOTER CREATES THE GRAPHIC NOVEL IN 1951
NATIONAL WOW
GOD HELL STUDIOS MAKES MILLIONS SELLS CORVETTES & CIGARETTES THE MOVIE!!!
HANG ON LADS,
WE'RE ABOUT TO KICK THIS THING INTO HIGH GEAR!
AFTER THE L.A. SHOW, ELTON GOT TO MEET ONE OF HIS ROCK IDOLS, LEON RUSSELL.
GREAT SHOW, ELTON. WANNA COME OVER TO MY PAD AND JAM?
ME? JAM WITH YOU?!? S-SURE MR. RUSSELL.
CALL ME LEON SON.
THIS IS FANTASTIC! I'M PLAYING WITH LEON RUSSELL LEON RUSSELL!!!
NOT BAD, EH, WONDER GIRL.
HUH?
O.K. SO HERE'S DE SCORE. FIRST ME N' ROBIN
HOLY SQUAT-THRUST BATMAN
YOU'VE GOT IT KID!
DON'T LET THE MOMENT PASS YOU BY.

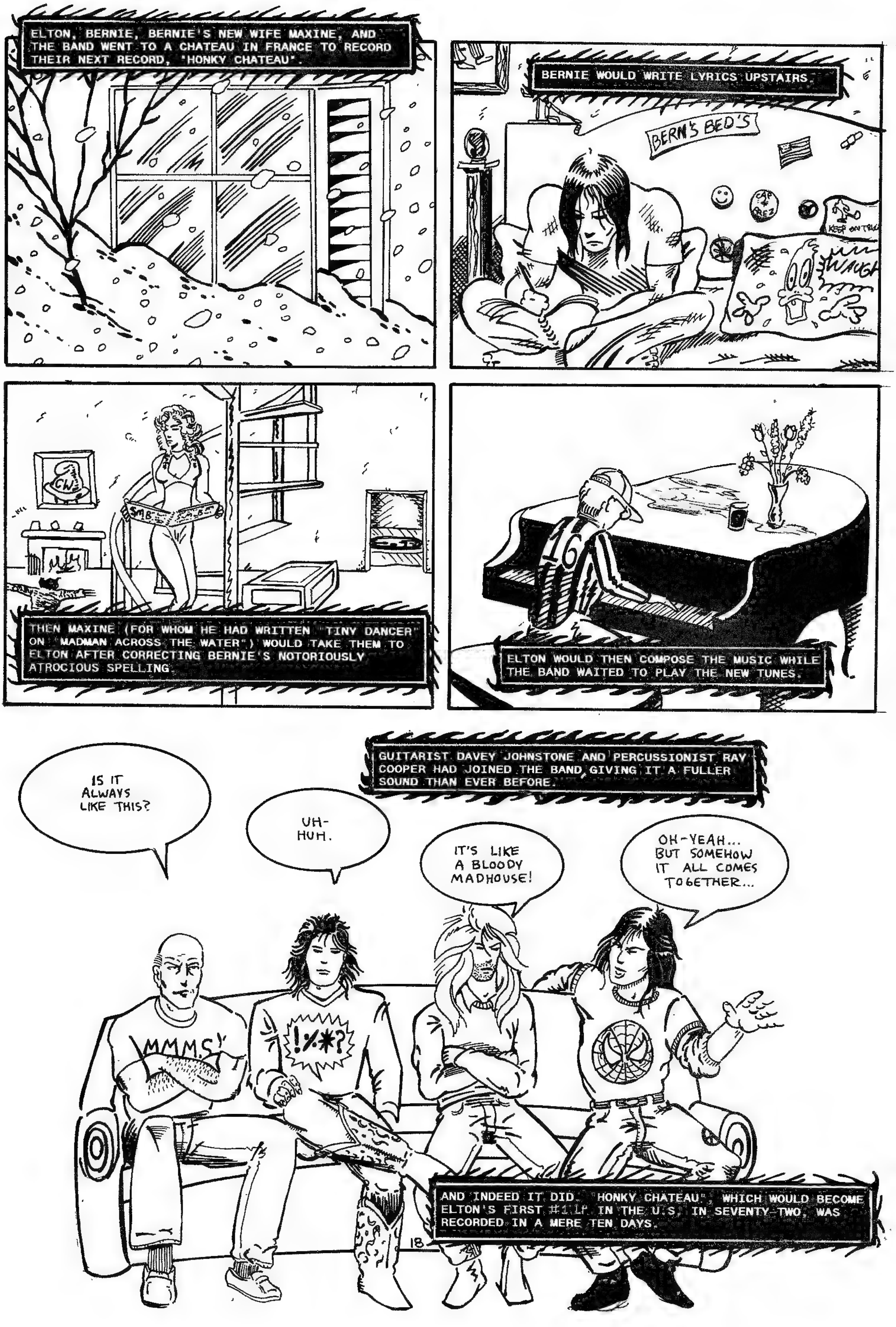
ELTON AND HIS BAND STORMED ACROSS AMERICA GATHERING MOMENTUM... AND FANS...
ELTON'S CONFIDENCE SOARED AND HE BECAME MORE AND MORE FLAMBOYANT WITH EACH SHOW... ADDING BRIGHT JUMPSUITS, BIG HATS, AND GAUDY GLASSES TO HIS ONSTAGE WARDROBE.
ZIMMERMAN
COOL SHOW MAN.
T-THANKS THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO SAY, MR. DYLAN!
DURING THE TOUR, ELTON AND BERNIE GOT TO MEET ANOTHER OF THEIR IDOLS, BOB DYLAN...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING A CHANCE TO MEET YOU, MR. DYLAN!
CALL ME "BOB".

IN NEW YORK, ELTON AND THE BAND WARMED UP FOR A SHOW AT THE LEGENDARY FILLMORE EAST BY PLAYING THEIR FIRST LIVE RADIO BROADCAST.
... IT'S A LITTLE BIT FUNNY, THIS FEELING INSIDE...
WABC
THIS BROADCAST WOULD LATER BE TURNED INTO "ELEVEN-SEVENTEEN SEVENTY", ELTONS FIRST LIVE ALBUM.
THE POUNDING TWENTY-MINUTE FINALE LEFT THE AUDIENCE STUNNED.
JESUS, ELTON, YOU WE'RE REALLY INTO IT! I COULD BARELY KEEP UP WITH YOU!
THERE WAS BLOOD ON THE KEYBOARD WHEN I WAS DONE! IT WAS BLOODY MARVELOUS!!
THIS IS A HELLUVA PACE YOU'RE SETTING FOR YOURSELF, E.J.
AFTER FINDING SUCCESS WITH "ELTON JOHN", AND ITS FOLLOW UP "TUMBLEWEED CONNECTION", ELTON FOUND HIMSELF WITH TWO ALBUMS IN THE MARKETPLACE THAT HE REALLY DIDN'T CARE FOR.
THE LIVE ALBUM SOUNDS TERRIBLE IF ONLY THOSE BLOODY BOOTLEGGERS HADN'T FORCED US TO PUT IT OUT.
GOD HELL STUDIOS TO PRODUCE: YES THE EARLY YEARS UNLESS JAY FIRES THEM FOR SEX CHANGE.
11-17-70
THE UNBURRIED DEAD
ALL OR NOTHING AT ALL, NIGE...
HE WAS EQUALLY DISPLEASED WITH "FRIENDS", AN ALBUM HE AND BERNIE HAD WRITTEN IN A HECTIC FOUR WEEK SPAN.
BOLLOCKS!
BLOODY SOUNDTRACK TO A MOVIE THAT'S NOT EVEN OUT YET! AND LOOK WHAT THEY'VE GIVEN US FOR A COVER.
SMASH!

NEVERTHELESS, ELTON WAS PLEASED WITH SOME OF THE RESULTS...
WE'VE GOT FOUR ALBUMS IN THE AMERICAN TOP 30 AT THE SAME TIME! NOBODY'S DONE THAT SINCE THE BEATLES!
BILLBOARD
WE'VE TAKEN AMERICA, LADS! IT'S TIME TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT BECOMING BIG BACK HOME... WE'RE OFF TO EUROPE!
THE PRESTIGIOUS MIDEM POP FESTIVAL IN FRANCE WILL BE AN EXCELLENT CHANCE FOR WIDESPREAD EXPOSURE! PART OF THE SHOW IS GOING TO BE BROADCAST ALL OVER THE CONTINENT!
EXCELLENT, DICK! LET'S SET IT UP!
MIDEM INTERNATIONAL POP FESTIVAL
BUT ELTON NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO BE HEARD ON THE RADIO BROADCAST BECAUSE ERIC BURDON, FRONTING HIS THEN-CURRENT BAND, WAR, PLAYED A SELFISHLY LONG SET THAT USED UP ALL THE ALLOTTED BROADCAST TIME.
MIDEM POP
BURDON, YOU FUCKUP! GET OFF THE BLEEDIN' STAGE!
NO THEY CAN'T TAKE AWAY OUR MUSIC...
THIS SUCKS!

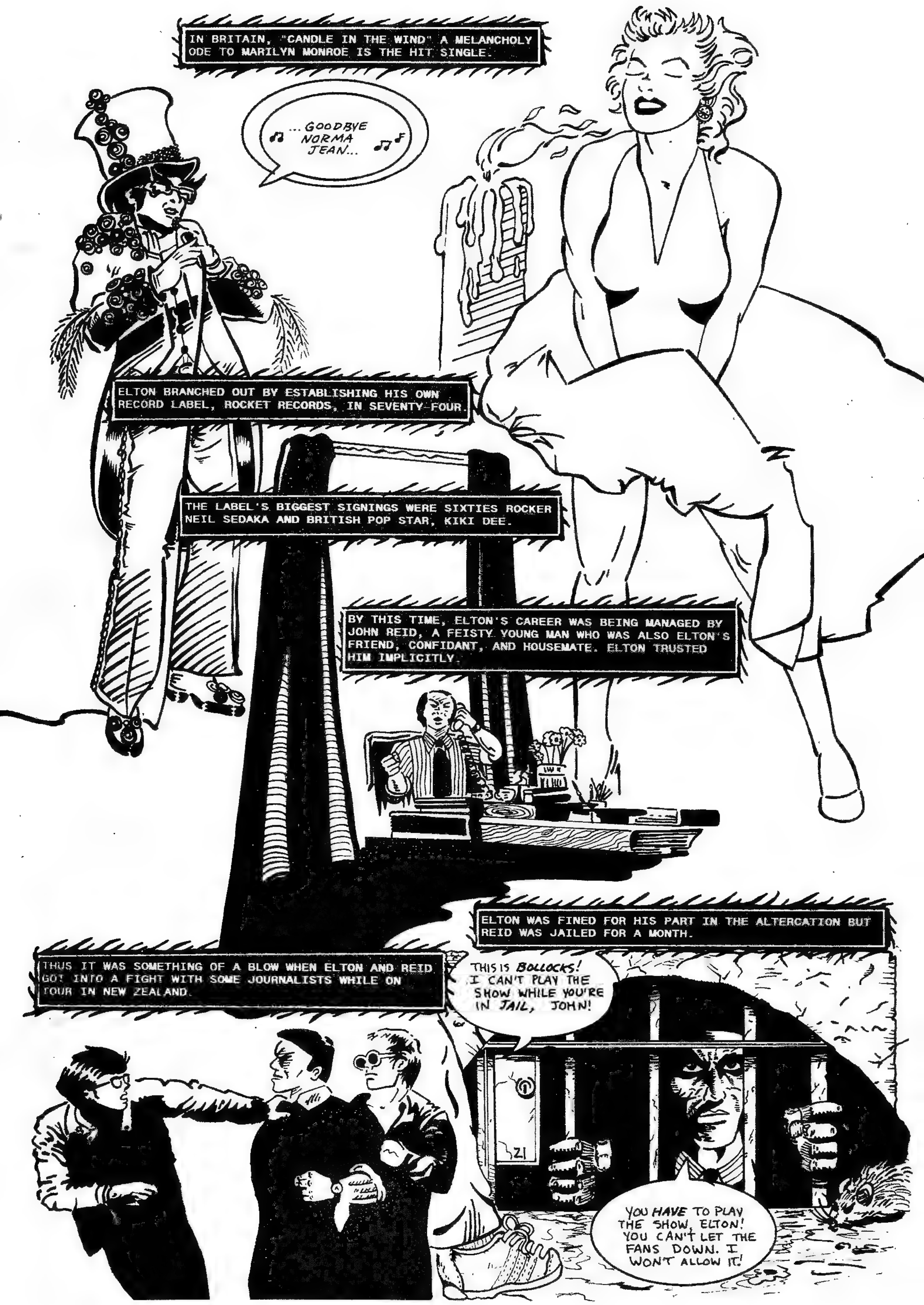
BLOODY HELL
I'M NOT GOING ON!
NOBODY'S GONNA HEAR US NOW!!!
ELTON, WE HAVE TO GO ON! THERE ARE POWERFULL INDUSTRY PEOPLE OUT THERE! WE CAN'T DISAPPOINT THEM!
C'MON E.J. LET'S GIVE 'EM HELL ANYWAY!
ELTON WAS CONVINCED TO GO ON AND HE AND THE BAND GAVE A ROUSING PERFORMANCE THAT ENDEARED THEM TO THE CROWD.
SO WE DIDN'T GET ON THE BROADCAST. I'M NOT GOING TO LET A MINOR SETBACK LIKE THAT STOP ME.
IF THE PEOPLE CAN'T COME TO US WE'LL GO TO THEM!
ELTON AND THE BAND TOURED THE WORLD DURING MOST OF NINETEEN-SEVENTY ONE, HITTING THE U.S., CANADA, SCANDINAVIA, JAPAN, AND AUSTRALIA.

DURING THE MADNESS OF THE TOUR, ELTON AND BERNIE KEPT WORKING ON SONGS FOR A NEW ALBUM.
...AND HE SHALL BE LE-VON, AND HE SHALL BE...
ROLAND
EXIT
"MADMAN ACROSS THE WATER", WAS RELEASED BEFORE THE END OF SEVENTY-ONE.
GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT WAS WRITTEN, IT'S NOT BAD...
BUT, IT'S NOT THE BEST IT COULD BE, BERNIE!
IT WAS SOMETHING OF A SALES DISAPPOINTMENT TO ELTON, BUT IT STANDS UP AS ONE OF HIS FINEST LP'S TO DATE.
SILLY POP TWIT! HOW DARE HE WASTE OUR TIME WITH HIS SO-CALLED "MUSIC"!
THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF ELTON'S YEAR WAS TO BE A GALA PERFORMANCE WITH THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA IN LONDON.
ELTON, RELAX, YOU WERE WONDERFULL.
THEY'RE A BUNCH OF SNOBBY PRIGS! THEY DIDN'T TAKE THE EVENT SERIOUSLY BECAUSE I'M "ONLY A POP STAR" AND NOT A "REAL" MUSICIAN.
NOW THAT I'VE MADE IT, IT'S BECOMING VERY HIP TO PUT ME DOWN!!!
THE BASTARDS!
WELL I'LL GIVE 'EM SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!


ELTON, BERNIE, BERNIE'S NEW WIFE MAXINE, AND THE BAND WENT TO A CHATEAU IN FRANCE TO RECORD THEIR NEXT RECORD, "HONKY CHATEAU".
BERNIE WOULD WRITE LYRICS UPSTAIRS.
BERN'S BED'S
THEN MAXINE (FOR WHOM HE HAD WRITTEN "TINY DANCER" ON "MADMAN ACROSS THE WATER") WOULD TAKE THEM TO ELTON AFTER CORRECTING BERNIE'S NOTORIOUSLY ATROCIOUS SPELLING.
ELTON WOULD THEN COMPOSE THE MUSIC WHILE THE BAND WAITED TO PLAY THE NEW TUNES.
GUITARIST DAVEY JOHNSTONE AND PERCUSSIONIST RAY COOPER HAD JOINED THE BAND, GIVING IT A FULLER SOUND THAN EVER BEFORE.
IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
UH-HUH.
IT'S LIKE A BLOODY MADHOUSE!
OH-YEAH... BUT SOMEHOW IT ALL COMES TOGETHER...
AND INDEED IT DID. "HONKY CHATEAU", WHICH WOULD BECOME ELTON'S FIRST #1 LP IN THE U.S. IN SEVENTY-TWO, WAS RECORDED IN A MERE TEN DAYS.

LATER THAT SAME YEAR, ELTON RELEASED YET ANOTHER ALBUM, "DON'T SHOOT ME, I'M ONLY THE PIANO PLAYER", WHICH FEATURED HIS FIRST NUMBER ONE SINGLE, "CROCODILE ROCK". . . .
WONDER HOW LONG WE'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP UP THIS PACE... ...WHEW!
BUT THE PACE WASN'T LETTING UP YET. ELTON WAS A "ROCKET MAN" AND HIS TRAJECTORY WAS STILL UP TOWARD THE STARS...
IN SEVENTY-TWO, ELTON ALSO GOT TO MEET YET ANOTHER OF HIS IDOLS, LIBERACE, AT AN ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT IN LONDON.
SEE THIS SUIT? IT'S WONDERFUL!
I PRESS THIS LITTLE BUTTON AND IT LIGHTS UP IN THE DARK!
LET'S GO, LADS, WE'VE ANOTHER RECORD TO MAKE!
AW, E.J., CAN'T YOU SLOW DOWN A BIT, MATE?
NO TIME FOR THAT! TOO MANY THINGS TO DO!

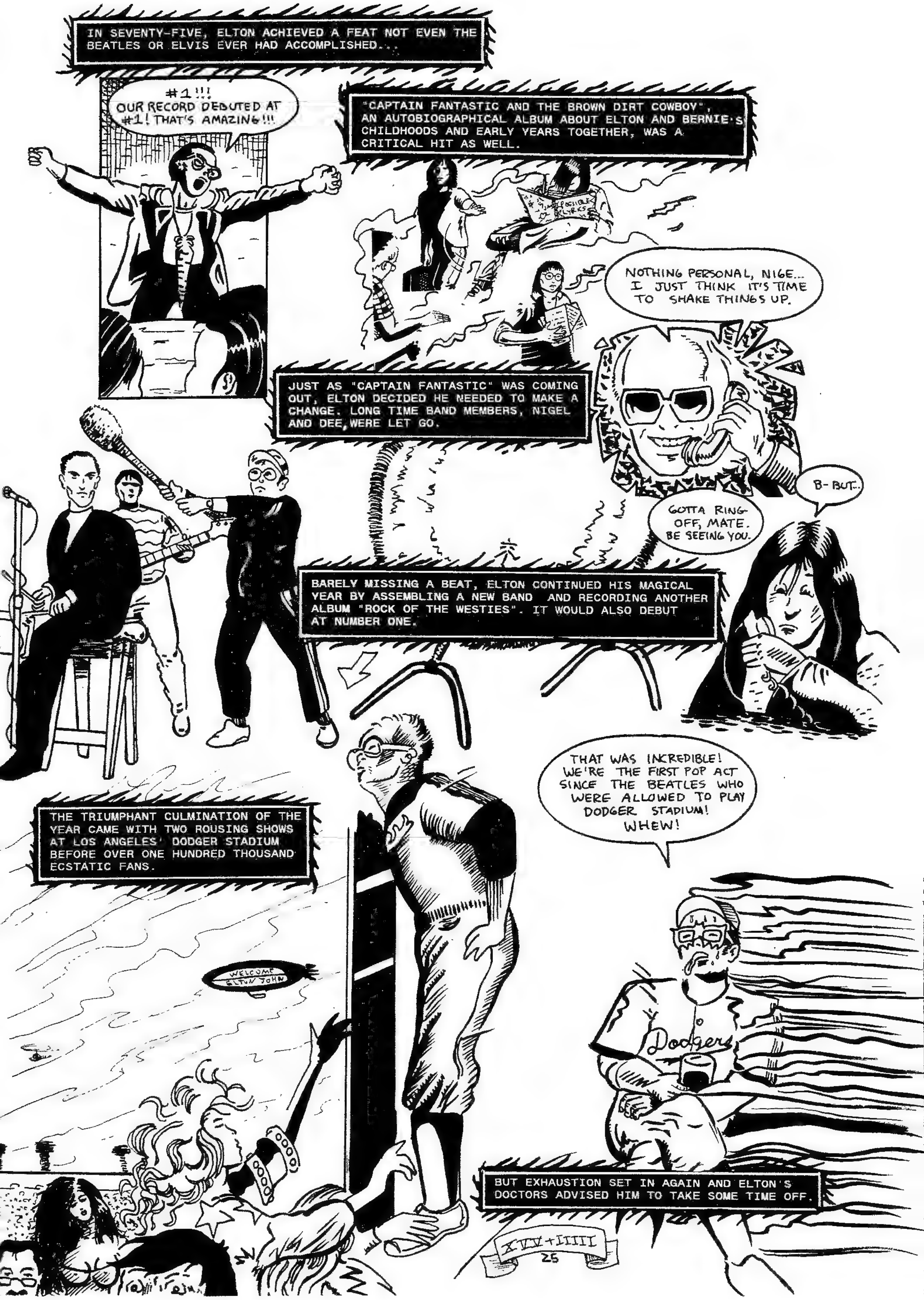
AFTER AN ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO RECORD IN JAMAICA, THE BAND RETURNED TO FRANCE TO RECORD.
SOMEBODY LET ME KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO PLAY...
SOMEBODY TELL ...YAWN... ME WHEN IT'S TIME TO SLEEP!
BUT THERE WASN'T MUCH TIME FOR SLEEP. THE BAND RECORDED A DOUBLE ALBUM IN A BLISTERING FIFTEEN DAYS.
...SO GOODBYE YELLOW BRICK ROAD...
WELL, I WASN'T SURE I WANTED A DOUBLE ALBUM...
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA PUT ALL THE SONGS WE DID ON ONE ALBUM?
...MOST OF THEM ARE PADDED WITH DRECK!
BUT NOT THIS ONE...
NO, NOT THIS ONE. THIS ALBUM IS LIKE THE ULTIMATE ELTON JOHN ALBUM... IT'S GOT ALL MY INFLUENCES FROM THE WORD GO. IT ENCOMPASSES EVERY THING I EVER WROTE. EVERYTHING I'VE EVER SOUNDED LIKE.
THE ALBUM FEATURED "BENNY AND THE JETS", WHICH WOULD BECOME ELTON'S SECOND NUMBER ONE SINGLE IN THE STATES.
SOUL TRAIN
I'M SUCH A BLACK MUSIC FANATIC THAT TO THINK THAT I'M ACTUALLY IN THE R&B CHART IS BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS.
SHAMBLES
WENDEL
EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY TO ELTON, THE RECORD CROSSED OVER INTO THE R&B CHARTS. ELTON EVEN APPEARED ON "SOUL TRAIN".
XX


IN BRITAIN, "CANDLE IN THE WIND" A MELANCHOLY ODE TO MARILYN MONROE IS THE HIT SINGLE.
...GOODBYE NORMA JEAN...
ELTON BRANCHED OUT BY ESTABLISHING HIS OWN RECORD LABEL, ROCKET RECORDS, IN SEVENTY-FOUR.
THE LABEL'S BIGGEST SIGNINGS WERE SIXTIES ROCKER NEIL SEDAKA AND BRITISH POP STAR, KIKI DEE.
BY THIS TIME, ELTON'S CAREER WAS BEING MANAGED BY JOHN REID, A FEISTY YOUNG MAN WHO WAS ALSO ELTON'S FRIEND, CONFIDANT, AND HOUSEMATE. ELTON TRUSTED HIM IMPLICITLY.
THUS IT WAS SOMETHING OF A BLOW WHEN ELTON AND REID GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH SOME JOURNALISTS WHILE ON TOUR IN NEW ZEALAND.
ELTON WAS FINED FOR HIS PART IN THE ALTERCATION BUT REID WAS JAILED FOR A MONTH.
THIS IS BOLLOCKS! I CAN'T PLAY THE SHOW WHILE YOU'RE IN JAIL, JOHN!
YOU HAVE TO PLAY THE SHOW, ELTON! YOU CAN'T LET THE FANS DOWN. I WON'T ALLOW IT!

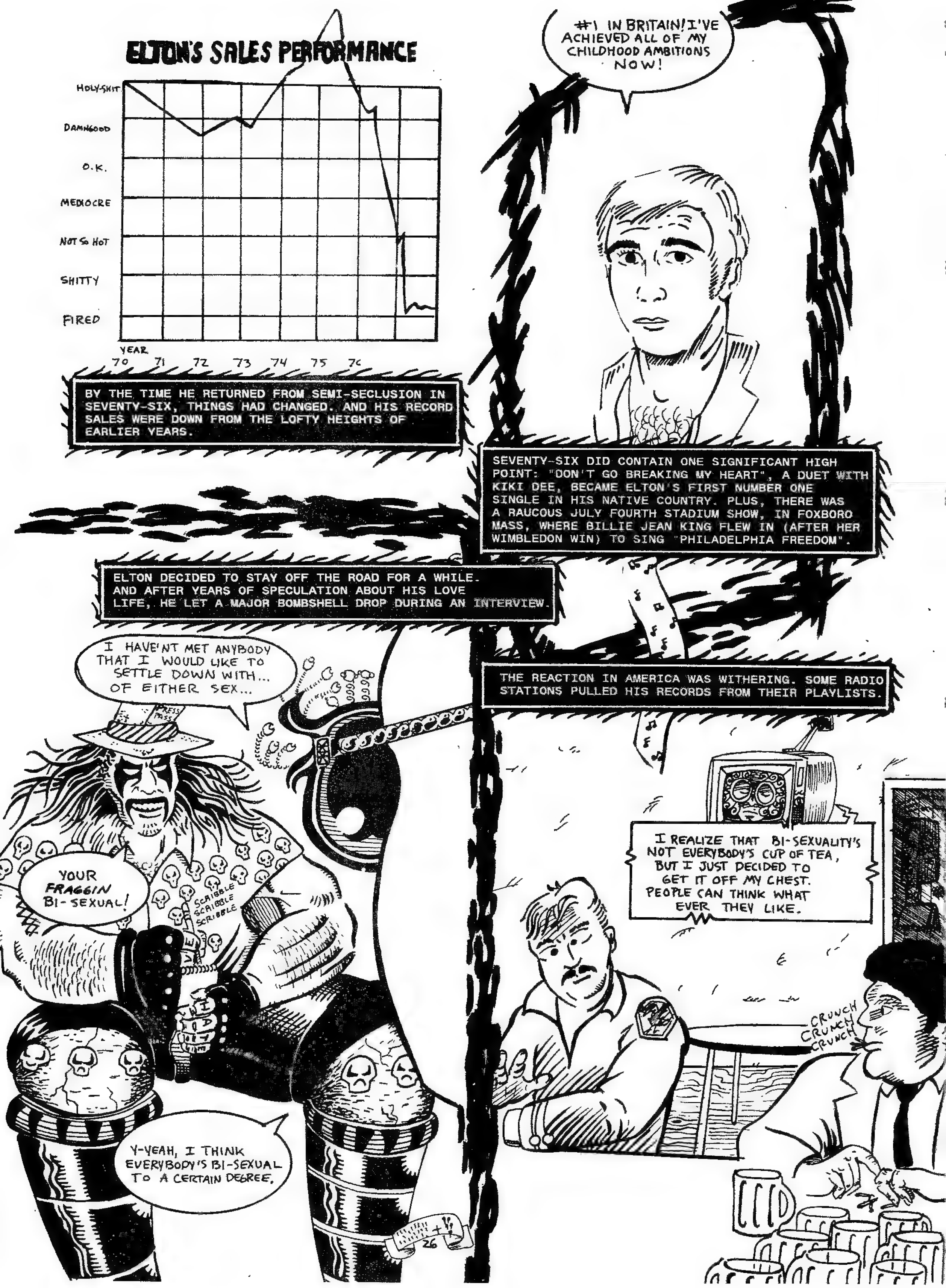
ELTON PLAYED THE SHOW AND IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.
WE HAD THE LARGEST CROWD IN NEW ZEALAND HISTORY FOR ONE SHOW... 35,000 PEOPLE... ONE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION!
AND YET ALL OF THIS STUFF WITH JOHN RUINED IT.
BUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR, COMBINED WITH HIS BRUISING SCHEDULE THE PAST FEW YEARS, LEFT ELTON EMOTIONALLY DRAINED.
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW, ELTON?
MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR A VACATION...
THE PRESSURE OF SUCCESS WAS TAKING ITS TOLL. ELTON SANK INTO THE BOTTLE...
..SO GOODBYE YELLOW BRICK ROADDDD
URP
LOOKIT YOU! 27 YEARS OLD AND YOUR HAIRS GOING... YOUR BODY'S GOING... GET HOLD OF YOURSELF!
2 SIX PACKS + 10 MORE BEERS

ALL TOURING CANCELLED FOR THE NONCE, ELTON TURNED TO TENNIS WITH THE HELP OF HIS FREIND, BILLIE JEAN KING.
THAT'S THE WAY, ELTON!
YOU'RE A NATURAL!
KING HAD STARTED WORLD TEAM TENNIS, AN AMBITIOUS EFFORT TO RID TENNIS OF ITS ELITIST AIRS. ELTON BECAME AN AVID FAN OF THE TEAM SHE PLAYED FOR.
BILLIE, I'M GOING TO WRITE A SONG FOR YOU.
SURE YOU ARE.
NO, I MEAN IT. JUST WAIT AND SEE...
BERNIE, I NEED YOU TO WRITE THE WORDS TO A SONG FOR ME. IT'S CALLED "PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM"
EXCUSE ME?
YOU CAN DO IT, BERNIE, YOU'RE THE POET! ...THANKS, MATE.
IT'S SHOWTIME!
LET THE MAGIC BEGIN!
A REJUVENATED ELTON WENT TO COLORADO TO RECORD NEW MUSIC.
THE BAND MADE A NUMBER OF RECORDINGS IN COLORADO. INCLUDED AMONG THESE WAS THE ALBUM "CARIBOU" AND THE SONG FOR BILLIE JEAN KING, "PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM".
KORG
20+DAV 23

ELTON ALSO RECORDED A RARE COVER VERSION DURING THIS TIME. HE GOT THE IDEA WHILE CHATTING WITH HIS FRIEND AND HERO, JOHN LENNON.
WITH LENNON HIMSELF ON GUITAR (USING THE PSEUDONYM 'DR. WINSTON O'BOOGIE'), ELTON RECORDED WHAT WOULD BECOME THE BIGGEST COVER VERSION OF A BEATLES SONG.
I'D LIKE TO RECORD ONE OF YOUR SONGS. WHICH ONE WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO?
WELL, NO ONE'S EVER DONE "LUCY IN THE SKY"...
ELTON RETURNED THE FAVOR BY SINGING AND PLAYING ON LENNON'S "WHATEVER GETS YOU THROUGH THE NIGHT".
THIS IS GOING TO BE A #1 RECORD, JOHN!
NAH, I'M NOT VERY WELL LIKED IN AMERICA THESE DAYS.
TELL YOU WHAT, IF IT DOES GO TO #1, YOU'LL HAVE TO COME DO A SHOW WITH ME IN NEW YORK!
YOU'RE ON!
IN NOVEMBER SEVENTY-FOUR, "WHATEVER GETS YOU THROUGH THE NIGHT" DID INDEED GO TO NUMBER ONE, AND LENNON DUTIFULLY APPEARED AT A MADISON SQUARE GARDEN SHOW.
I'D LIKE TO THANK ELTON AND THE BOYS FOR HAVING ME ON TONIGHT...
TOGETHER THEY PERFORMED "WHATEVER", "LUCY", AND THE BEATLES' "I SAW HER STANDING THERE".
THAT NIGHT TURNED OUT TO BE THE LAST TIME THAT JOHN LENNON EVER APPEARED ON A CONCERT STAGE.



IN SEVENTY-FIVE, ELTON ACHIEVED A FEAT NOT EVEN THE BEATLES OR ELVIS EVER HAD ACCOMPLISHED...
#1!!! OUR RECORD DEBUTED AT #1! THAT'S AMAZING!!!
"CAPTAIN FANTASTIC AND THE BROWN DIRT COWBOY", AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM ABOUT ELTON AND BERNIE'S CHILDHOODS AND EARLY YEARS TOGETHER, WAS A CRITICAL HIT AS WELL.
NOTHING PERSONAL, NIGE... I JUST THINK IT'S TIME TO SHAKE THINGS UP.
JUST AS "CAPTAIN FANTASTIC" WAS COMING OUT, ELTON DECIDED HE NEEDED TO MAKE A CHANGE. LONG TIME BAND MEMBERS, NIGEL AND DEE, WERE LET GO.
B-BUT..
GOTTA RING OFF, MATE. BE SEEING YOU.
BARELY MISSING A BEAT, ELTON CONTINUED HIS MAGICAL YEAR BY ASSEMBLING A NEW BAND AND RECORDING ANOTHER ALBUM "ROCK OF THE WESTIES". IT WOULD ALSO DEBUT AT NUMBER ONE.
THAT WAS INCREDIBLE! WE'RE THE FIRST POP ACT SINCE THE BEATLES WHO WERE ALLOWED TO PLAY DODGER STADIUM! WHEW!
THE TRIUMPHANT CULMINATION OF THE YEAR CAME WITH TWO ROUSING SHOWS AT LOS ANGELES' DODGER STADIUM BEFORE OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ECSTATIC FANS.
WELCOME ELTON JOHN
Dodgers
BUT EXHAUSTION SET IN AGAIN AND ELTON'S DOCTORS ADVISED HIM TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF.
XVV+IIIII


ELTON'S SALES PERFORMANCE
HOLY-SHIT
DAMNGOOD
O.K.
MEDIOCRE
NOT SO HOT
SHITTY
FIRED
YEAR
70 71 72 73 74 75 76
BY THE TIME HE RETURNED FROM SEMI-SECLUSION IN SEVENTY-SIX, THINGS HAD CHANGED. AND HIS RECORD SALES WERE DOWN FROM THE LOFTY HEIGHTS OF EARLIER YEARS.
#1 IN BRITAIN! I'VE ACHIEVED ALL OF MY CHILDHOOD AMBITIONS NOW!
SEVENTY-SIX DID CONTAIN ONE SIGNIFICANT HIGH POINT: "DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART", A DUET WITH KIKI DEE, BECAME ELTON'S FIRST NUMBER ONE SINGLE IN HIS NATIVE COUNTRY. PLUS, THERE WAS A RAUCOUS JULY FOURTH STADIUM SHOW, IN FOXBORO MASS, WHERE BILLIE JEAN KING FLEW IN (AFTER HER WIMBLEDON WIN) TO SING "PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM".
ELTON DECIDED TO STAY OFF THE ROAD FOR A WHILE. AND AFTER YEARS OF SPECULATION ABOUT HIS LOVE LIFE, HE LET A MAJOR BOMBSHELL DROP DURING AN INTERVIEW.
I HAVE'NT MET ANYBODY THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SETTLE DOWN WITH... OF EITHER SEX...
PRESS PASS
YOUR FRAGGIN BI-SEXUAL!
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
Y-YEAH, I THINK EVERYBODY'S BI-SEXUAL TO A CERTAIN DEGREE.
THE REACTION IN AMERICA WAS WITHERING. SOME RADIO STATIONS PULLED HIS RECORDS FROM THEIR PLAYLISTS.
I REALIZE THAT BI-SEXUALITY'S NOT EVERYBODY'S CUP OF TEA, BUT I JUST DECIDED TO GET IT OFF MY CHEST. PEOPLE CAN THINK WHAT EVER THEY LIKE.
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH
26

ELTON BECAME A VIRTUAL RECLUSE, THROWING HIMSELF INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE SOCCER TEAM HE PARTIALLY OWNED.
MY NEW SONG IS DEDICATED TO THE JAGGERS AND THE BOWIES... AND ESPECIALLY TO MR. MCCARTNEY. THEY ALL JUST ANNOY ME!
IN SEVENTY-EIGHT, ELTON RETURNED TO THE STUDIO TO RECORD AN ACERBIC SINGLE CALLED "EGO".
WELL IT'S A GOOD BLEEDIN' SONG! AND IF YOUR STUPID CHARTS DON'T SHOW IT'S SELLING, THEY'RE WRONG!!
ELTON'S OWN EGO WAS A BIT OUT OF CONTROL AS WELL, AND HE COULDN'T ACCEPT THE FACT THAT HIS SONG WASN'T SELLING WELL.
ELTON JOHN
LIVE
ACCOMPANYING HIMSELF ON PIANO WITH ONLY RAY COOPER AS A BACKUP PLAYER, ELTON WOWED THE SOVIET CROWDS. THE SHOWS WERE A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO FORM.
TAKE IT EASY, ELTON.
WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING BIG TO GET THE SPOTLIGHT BACK ON YOU WHERE IT BELONGS!
LIKE WHAT?
LIKE A TOUR OF THE USSR. NO POP STAR'S EVER DONE *THAT* BEFORE.

I'M TRYING TO BE MORE PATIENT THAN I USED TO BE. MY TIME WILL COME AGAIN.
HITS WERE FEWER AND FURTHER BETWEEN, BUT ELTON WAS LEARNING TO WEATHER THE SETBACKS.
PUTTING TOGETHER A BAND THAT FEATURED ORIGINAL BANDMATES OLSSON AND MURRAY, ELTON STAGED A GALA CONCERT IN NEW YORK'S CENTRAL PARK IN NINETEEN-EIGHTY. THE SHOW DREW OVER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE.
THIS NEXT SONG WAS WRITTEN BY A FRIEND OF MINE...
IMAGINE NO POSSESIONS, I WONDER IF YOU CAN...
A FEW WEEKS LATER, THAT FRIEND, JOHN LENNON, WOULD BE DEAD. ELTON, GODFATHER TO JOHN'S SON SEAN, WAS CRUSHED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... I HUNG OUT WITH HIM, AND I LOVED HIM. I NEVER MET ANYBODY WHO IMPRESSED ME SO MUCH AS JOHN...
BERNIE WROTE THE LYRICS TO A TRIBUTE SONG, "EMPTY GARDEN", THAT SUMMED UP ALL OF HIS FEELINGS ABOUT THE TRAGEDY.
BUT INSTEAD OF LETTING IT STOP HIM, ELTON FOUND NEW STRENGTH AND RETURNED TO THE ROAD A NEW, MORE SOBER PERFORMER.

HE MARRIED...AND LATER DIVORCED... RENATE BLAUEL, A GERMAN-BORN RECORDING ENGINEER; HE PLAYED A WELL-RECEIVED SERIES OF DATES WITH THE MELBOURNE SYMPHONY.
HE RECORDED THE NUMBER ONE HIT AIDS BENEFIT SONG, "THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR" WITH DIONNE WARWICK, STEVIE WONDER, AND GLADYS KNIGHT.
AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, TOGETHER WITH MICHAEL JACKSON, HE HELPED MAKE THE LAST DAYS OF YOUNG AIDS VICTIM, RYAN WHITE, THAT MUCH RICHER.
ELTON WAS AT THE BOY'S BEDSIDE WHEN HE DIED.
GOODBYE OLD FRIEND... I LOVE YOU...
I USED TO HATE REG QUITE A LOT. ESPECIALLY THE NAME.
IN EIGHTY-EIGHT, ELTON CAME FULL CIRCLE BACK TO HIMSELF WITH THE RELEASE OF "REG STRIKES BACK", A SORT OF RECLAIMING OF THE MAN BEHIND THE SUPERSTAR.
BUT I THINK I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY WITH BEING ELTON.

THIS NEW SELF AWARENESS (AND SELF-CONFIDENCE) INFUSED HIS NINETEEN-NINETY ALBUM, "SLEEPING WITH THE PAST", WHICH INCLUDED HIS VERY FIRST SOLO BRITISH NUMBER ONE HIT, "SACRIFICE".
THE COSTUMES ARE GONE, AND THE MUSIC IS UP FRONT WHERE IT BELONGS. A FOUR-CD BOXED SET, "TO BE CONTINUED...", CLEARED THE DECKS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE STILL TO COME.
HE'S BEEN UP TO THE HIGHEST HEIGHTS, AND DOWN TO THE DEEPEST VALLEYS...HE'S ELTON JOHN...HE'S JUST A GUY NAMED REG...AND THROUGH IT ALL, HE'S STILL STANDING.
WOW!!! GREAT STORY!
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!
THERE'S A LOT MORE, BUT WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
CAN I HAVE THE CROCODILE SUIT?
DON'T BE DAFT, IT'S ALL A PART OF ROCK+ROLL HISTORY LAD, ALL OF IT!

(continued from inside front cover)
Dear Lauren,

I have to agree about the idealization of the girls' figures. When the art came in on that issue, I was out of the state at various conventions and in-store appearances, so I missed my usual opportunity to have things like this sent back to the artists and corrected.

As for the storyline, we avoided going into Joan's relationship with Lita because we only had one side of the story, from Joan's personal manager. It didn't seem fair to present a one-sided view of this, and we couldn't get the definitive word from Lita's camp, so we chose not to delve into it at all. It seemed the only way to remain impartial. You mentioned mistakes we made in the history, but didn't specify where. Let me know if we blew any of the specifics, and I'll print a correction if this proves to be the case. We always appreciate help in clarifying the record. I don't think we exagerrated the way the Runaways were hounded by the media—those events actually happened, according to the bandmembers themselves!

I've endeavored to increase our coverage of women rockers over the last year (Kate Bush is out now, Janis is coming, and the Madonna special is at the printers—look for the Women In Rock special later this year, with Janet Jackson, Paula Abdul, etc.). I'd hate to lose momentum, or not being taken seriously, because of sexist pinup-girl visuals.

Nor can I argue with your assessment of how the Runaways would have fared if they'd come out TODAY. Back then, girl groups like Fanny, The GTOs, etc. were considered novelty acts and nobody (least of all Kim Fowley) was encouraging them to work on their PLAYING. Today, The Pandoras, L7, and even The Bangles prove that rock and roll is not gender specific! As for the comments about their musical ability, we do use the captions to express our opinions about various things, but that's what our readers seem to like about us. We have something to SAY about our subjects instead of just giving a dry recitation of facts. The writers give their opinions, but they're not expected to be taken as irrefutable facts.

Jay Allen

Dear Freedom Fighters,

Your comics are the best in the business! Not only do you inform your readers about rock 'n' roll, but you also give superb columns on how limited freedoms in America can be in reality, and the unrelenting B.S. Todd Loren and Revolutionary had to endure for speaking their minds. It makes me sick that so much of the comics and rock 'n' roll industry is so monopolized and commercialized.

It would be cool if you guys could make a few comics containing mini-bios on lesser known bands like Big Audio Dynamite, Primus, The Dead Kennedys, Fishbone, etc.

L.H. Miller
Rt. 3
Blackshear, GA 31516

Dear L.H.,

Thanx for the good word about Revolutionary! Since Todd was killed last summer things around here are somewhat different, yet more or less the same. We're still thumbing our noses as assholes who'd try to restrict free expression, and still Unauthorized and Proud of It. When I first switched from head writer to managing editor, I spent the first few months just keeping the logistics and mechanics on track, and I used the comic column pages just for answering letters and running general music-related essays. But now that we've really settled into a groove and gotten the business side running smooth, I'm taking more time to dig up the dirt on "who's gettin' pissed on and who's doin' the pissing" (to quote Mr. Zappa).

I haven't done too many mini-bios lately because the results of the reader's poll in the Rush issue showed that the majority of readers prefer full-length stories. I do have an issue of Hard Rock Comics on The Dead Kennedys (with art by Birth Of Punk penmaster Joltin' Joe Paradise, he of the infamous pickup line "How'd you like a little taste of Paradise?"). I just met with Fishbone (see photo in the U2 issue, with Fishbone checking out a couple of RNR comics). I'll keep everyone posted through the column pages as things solidify (nothing's inked yet). Nothing on the schedule yet for B.A.D. or Primus, but who knows what'll happen later this year?

Jay Allen

Dear Revolutionary,

I just read Genesis: The 70s yesterday and I loved it! It's always great to learn all you can about your favorite bands, you know. I was also impressed by your personal letter. It was really something, made me feel like my opinions were looked at. Thanks.

Genesis was always a confusing band for me to understand. I started hearing about them around '82 and I liked them, then there was Phil solo, and then Mike & the Mechanics, then Genesis, and so on. I also never really knew about the weird costumes that Gabriel wore. I'm definitely voting for a Genesis: 80s issue, please! I want to learn more. I also have another few questions: Have you ever heard of a group called Vain? If not, let me know, I'll send you a copy of their only album called *No Respect*. I was wondering if you can find out what happened to them. That album came out in '88 I think, and then that was it! I've written every rock mag I could to find out where they were, but they don't answer back.

I also wonder if you send copies of your books to the bands you do? What do they think? Do they sometimes help you? If not, how do you find out all this information?

I also have a few more suggestions: INXS, Judas Priest, Alice In Chains, Chicago, Overkill, The Fixx, Savatage, Bruce Hornsby, Suicidal Tendencies, Foreigner, Journey, Georgia Satellites, Hall & Oates.

Kenneth J. Todd
23 Myrtle Ct.
Havelock, NC 28532

Dear Kenneth,

Thanx so much for the good word on the Genesis comic. That issue almost didn't get published. The pre-production questionaires came back from retailers with Genesis very low on the list of bands they thought their customers wanted. But the band ranked

(continued on page 32)

(continued from page 31)

very high among request from the readers themselves, and some encouraging words (and paid orders) from some of the fan clubs convinced me to take a chance to do the book. I'm particularly happy with Greg's art, as he really went out of his way to research every costume, stage set and haircut (Phil's head, in particular, undergoes constant transformation).

As for your question about the band Vain, they were signed to a short-term contract to Island in late 1988. They put out just one record, the *No Respect* one you mentioned, in September '89. There was virtually no promotion and very little airplay, and the label dropped the group. It appears Vain was one of dozens of bands scarfed up by Island around then, only a handful of which got any promotion and backing. Most of the bands were left alone to sink or swim. None of the Island press on Vain gives any clues as to what happened to them, or even whether they're still together. Sorry I can't find anymore info on them, but there doesn't seem to be much available.

I do indeed send copies of the comics to the athletes and the bands we cover. While it's true that some groups threatened to sue us early on, nowadays we mostly get positive feedback if we hear anything back at all. Plus I meet a lot of the bands myself and put the comics in their hands, but more often than not they've already seen it and usually compliment us on it. Some even ask if we'll do something FOR them—we're doing a Mercyful Fate tour comic, and we've gotten good words from Hendrix bassist Noel Redding and Megadeth's Dave Mustaine recently.

As for your suggestions, I actually have a completed script for Suicidal Tendencies which will go into production later this year (it'll probably come out in winter). Savatage (isn't *Streets* better than Q-ryche's *Mindcrime*?) will be a backup feature sometime soon, as I've been hooked on them since seeing the alley-opera "Gutter Ballet" video. I'll also definitely do Alice In Chains this year, but there are no current plans to cover any of the other bands on your list.

Jay Allen

Dear Sirs/Madame,

I have two questions for you! Living in Canada, we have trouble getting information on some things and your comics seems to be one. My questions are these:

1. I have noticed that some of the listings of comics show that there are sometimes promo type comics, but never an advertisement for how to get them. Does living in Canada make me unable to get this type of comic, or is there a way of getting them for my collection? I'd love to see what you do have planned for the future!

2. I also collect autographs, but not on my comics! How would I go about getting autographs of some of the writers and artists (pencilers)?

I love your comics and I have good collections (not complete) of Baseball Legends, Baseball Superstars, Rock 'N' Roll Comics and the Sports Superstars. I love baseball! My age is 43.

I'm really interested in your company and may switch to just your comics, depending on your answers to the above questions.

Philip V. Reece
5 Cornwall Street
Lr. Sackville
Nova Scotia, Candada B4C 1J2

Dear Mr. Reece,

I'm a little unsure of your question about promo type comics. You mention seeing listings for them, but we don't have any such notation in our own back issue lists which run in the comics. Do you mean the comics we've talked about producing for different bands and their puiblicists? We're just now moving into production on projects like this, where we do 16 pagers for the bands themsleves, which they use to promote themselves and their records to music shops and radio stations. The band or their label/reps commission them, so they get all the printed copies to pass out or sell as they see fit. The same with some upcoming comic tour programs we're doing for various bands. As we negotiate these things, we try to talk them into letting us sell them through our own distribution venues to increase the take for EVERYONE and so that all of our readers and fans can see the work, but it's often difficult.

Sorry they're so hard to find in Canada. We have blanket, widespread distribution stateside and in a few other countries, but our presence in certain areas of Canada is weak. We're always looking for firms, and even individuals, to help us expand the market for our comics. Some folks literally takes copies from store to store, music and sports shops mainly, talking the retailers into ordering directly from them. The individual then places the orders with us (we give them a substantial discount, previews of upcoming releases and order forms), and then send the books for the individual to pass out to his own accounts and contacts. For his trouble, the individual distributor keeps a cut off the top and some people are making a decent living doing this in areas where our comics are a new sensation and there's no competition! You can also order direct from us—see this issue's Back Issues Available listing.

As for your question about autographs, we occassionally put out special signed editions in limited quantities (every customer who ordered 20 or more Kiss comics got one edition signed by the writers and artists for every 20 copies). For just autographs themselves, I'm sure that most of our people would be flattered and honored to fill such a request. Feel free to forward letters to whomever you'd be interesed in getting signatures from, I'll forward them. I'm sure that most all of our staffers would love to hear from you, as we value nothing more than the feedback and encouragement we get from our readers.

Jay Allen

Revolutionary Comics wants your questions, comments and criticism. Address them to: Revolutionary Comics, 9528 Miramar Road *#278*, San Diego, CA 92126.

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1 GUNS N' ROSES; (7th printing)
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4 MOTLEY CRUE; (2nd)
5 DEF LEPPARD; (2nd)
6 ROLLING STONES; (4th)
7 THE WHO
10 WHITESNAKE + Warrant; (2nd)
12 NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK
14 SEX PISTOLS
15 POISON + Sweet + NY Dolls;clr
16 VAN HALEN + Sammy Hagar;clr
18 ALICE COOPER; color
19 2 LIVE CREW + Public Enemy
20 QUEENSRYCHE + Tesla
21 PRINCE + George Clinton; color
22 AC/DC; Sanford/Sagara; color
23 LIVING COLOUR
24 ANTHRAX + Faith No More
29 OZZY OSBOURNE (Part 2)
30 THE CURE
31 VANILLA ICE
33 GUNS N' ROSES II
34 BLACK CROWES
35 R.E.M.
36 MICHAEL JACKSON
37 ICE T
38 ROD STEWART
39 THE FALL OF THE NEW KIDS
40 N.W.A. + Ice Cube
44 SCORPIONS; Sanford/Ross
45 GRATEFUL DEAD (Part 1)
47 GRATEFUL DEAD (Part 3)
51 BOB DYLAN (Part 2)
52 BOB DYLAN (Part 3)
53 BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
54 U2 (Part 1 of 2)
55 U2 (Part 2 of 2)
56 DAVID BOWIE
57 AEROSMITH II
58 KATE BUSH
59 ERIC CLAPTON
60 GENESIS: The 70's
61 YES: The 70's (Sept)
62 ELTON JOHN
63 JANICE JOPLIN

HARD ROCK COMICS
2 MOTLEY CRUE
5 KISS: Tales From Tours (2nd)
6 DEF LEPPARD
8 PEARL JAM/SOUND GARDEN
9 QUEEN
10 BIRTH OF NEW YORK PUNK
11 PANTERA
12 JIMI HENDRIX
13 DEAD KENNEDYS
14 VAN HALEN II
15 MEGADETH/MOTORHEAD
16 JOAN JETT/LITA FORD
17 BRITISH METAL (Sept)
18 QUEENSRYCHE II

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1 HAMMER
2 JANET JACKSON
3 90210 STARS
4 90210 STARS
5 90210 STARS
6 KRIS KROSS/90210
7 MARKY MARK/90210
8 MADONNA/DOHERTY
9 90210/FAITH NO MORE
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5 Start of the solo years
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1 "Ring of Truth""Toy for Juliette" George C. Johnson, Robt. Bloch
2 "The Jigsaw Man""Sea Change" Larry Niven; George C. Johnson

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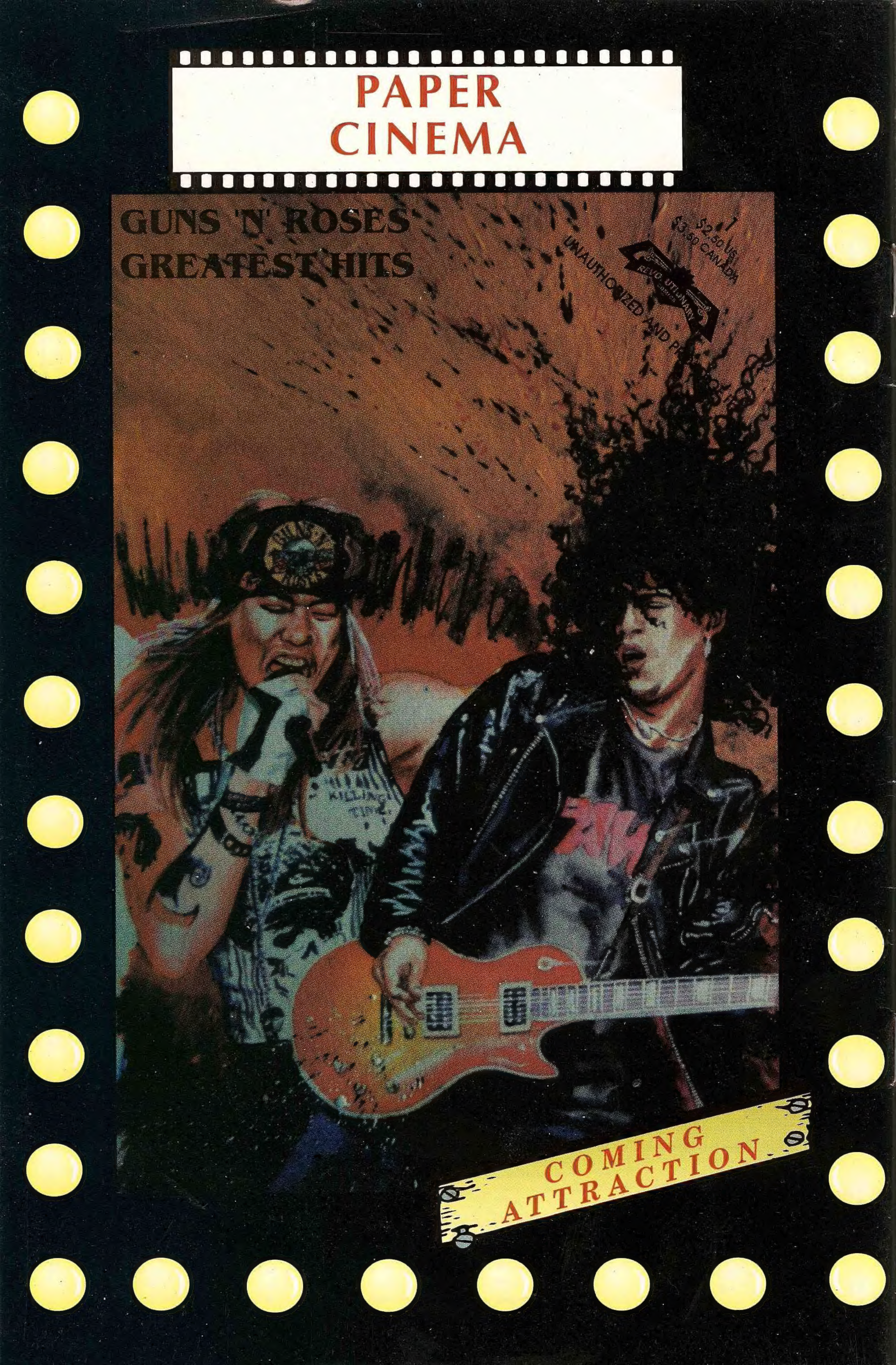
* Collector's trading cards included.
** Full color book, includes collector's trading cards.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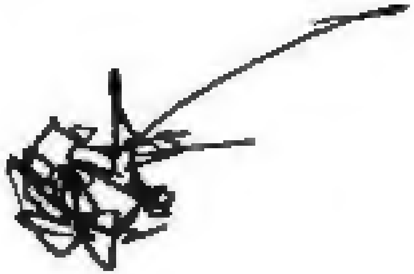
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